

— THE —

Suwannee Democrat

LIVE OAK PUBLISHING COMPANY
Publishers.Published every Friday at
No. 113 Conner St., Live Oak, Fla.Subscription Price:
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

Telephone 34

Entered at the Live Oak Postoffice as
second-class matter.Florida got through the Christmas
holidays with only three or four kill-
ings—man-killings, not hog-killings.Only two changes in State officers at
Tallahassee next Monday—Gilechrist
succeeds Broward as governor and
Thammell succeeds Ellis as attorney
general.The United States troops evacuate
Cuba today and this month the gov-
ernment of the Island will be turned
over to its own people. It remains to
be seen if they are fit for the task.The State Educational Association is
in session at Gainesville this week and
the attendance is very large. Enthu-
siasm for the school interests is always
a sure sign of a progressive common-
wealth.Southern Italy and the neighboring
island of Sicily were overwhelmed by
an earthquake last Monday which was
one of the most terrible disasters in all
human history. More than one hun-
dred thousand lives were lost, perhaps
twice as many wounded, the large city
of Messina destroyed and other dam-
age on a proportionate scale.Brevard county held a "wet or dry"
election last week and voted out the
liquor traffic by a majority of four to
one. The county voted "dry" two
years ago and the elimination of the
saloons resulted in such improved con-
ditions that the people emphasized their
approval last week with a force not to
be mistaken. They generally do it that
way in such cases. Doubtless there
isn't a "dry" county in Florida that
could be induced to re-establish the
evil reign of the liquor traffic.Public opinion is still a force in this
country. The Coopers, father and son,
guilty of the murder of ex-Senator
ack in Nashville, Tenn., have been
ad bail and must stay in jail. Un-
ordinary circumstances people of
r social standing too frequently
ed in convincing the court that
offence is a bailable one and they
permitted to go at large until they
brought to trial. But it didn't
this time, and public opinion,
a was very nearly one way, doubt-
ed something to do with it.itor Sparkman, of the Taylor Coun-
ty, erald, has known General Gilchrist
intimately for twenty years and says
he will make the best governor the
State ever had. This is high praise,
but our governor-elect has been a re-
markably successful man in conducting
his private affairs, and that, too, on a
rather extensive scale, and as modern
conditions require a first-class business
man at the head of the State, General
Gilchrist's wise management of his
own affairs is a guarantee that he will
be equal to the task ahead of him at
Tallahassee.Every saloon in the States of Ala-
bama and Mississippi closes its doors
today in obedience to the mandate of
the people speaking through their leg-
islatures, and as revolutions never go
backward it is doubtless true that those
doors will remain closed forever. There
were not many saloons remaining in
either State, for local option had been
driving them out with marvelous rap-
idity of late years and it was but
carrying out the logic of the policy to
abolish them all. With whiskey hard
to get we may confidently expect a
large falling off in crime and most other
forms of sin and sorrow in both of
those States and a corresponding in-
crease in pretty nearly every thing
else that is good, for the stuff that
steals away the brain is the devil's
most active and efficient agent on this
earth. It should be a joyous New
Year's day in every home in Alabama
and Mississippi, and even the greater
part of the bootleggers now plunged
in gloom, a year hence, after they have
been cured of their distemper and
emancipated from slavery to their costly
and unnatural thirst by the removal
of the temptation of the open saloon,
will be glad of this day's work.

PROMISE OF THE NEW YEAR.

The world begins a new year today and it is nip and tuck between the pessimist and the optimist as to which has the best of the argument in forecasting the future. Undoubtedly it is a profoundly discontented world, but, for that matter, it always has been and probably always will be. "Man never is, but always to be blest." Here in this country where we have a vast and comparatively new land to develop the nation has been on an industrial and speculative spree for the past decade, and in the general rush for wealth it was every fellow for himself and devil take the hindmost. In our fierce greed we forgot some of the fundamental verities and set up the false god Mammon as a better deity than the one our fathers worshipped; but last year we were brought up with a round turn and got a jolt that made the whole fabric of our industrial and commercial life quiver with the shock. As a result we have ceased to splurge, the promoters are out of a job and hustling for meal tickets, the get-rich-quick tribe has disappeared and the country, sobered by its scare, is moving quietly along on a safer basis and by sounder methods. Our resources are all here; we are the richest people in the world and in no other land are there so many opportunities for well-directed energy.

Roosevelt, with his fuss and furor and boastful strenuousness, well symbolizes the era from which the nation is just emerging, and we hope with all our heart that Mr. Taft, who is about to succeed him, will, in his calm, solid, simple character and safe and conservative methods be a true type of the new era upon which we are entering. We need just that type in our whole business and social life, and when it becomes the rule we will know both contentment and prosperity as a people.

We are well away from the panic which prostrated things last year and there is no prospect of another for years to come. The business of the country is readjusting itself to the new conditions and the shrinkage has brought surprisingly little suffering and enforced idleness. Booms are everywhere conspicuous by their absence, but business is fairly good, the industrial plants are nearly all in operation, thrift and economy are the keywords, prodigality and waste have gone to join the "busted" booms, and the new year begins with the nation on a sound basis and content to move forward by conservative methods and at considerably less than breakneck speed.

All things considered, the optimist has the better of the argument.

We have been anxious to hear some strong and leading Southern publication sound a clear and decided note on the tariff as a proper policy for the democratic South, and here it is from the Manufacturers' Record, which, more than any other periodical, is in intimate touch with our industrial interests and their needs:

"The time has come when every business man in the South—whether he be merchant, manufacturer, farmer or banker—interested in the welfare of this section should unite in a demand for a full measure of tariff protection to the interests of the South. This section has so long permitted others to make our tariff laws that there is danger that our own people may not realize how seriously this section would be hampered and crippled by a tariff revised in the interest of the East and West as against the South. Such things have been done before. They will be done again unless the people of the whole South awake to the danger of the situation."

Here is a sensible and timely paragraph from the Waycross, Ga., Herald:

"Occasionally some fellow who left the farm several years back 'for better or worse' and who has progressed in experience, multiplied his family and decimated his fortune, returns to the soil and he hugs it like a penitent prodigal. A man who has struggled in town or city for a few years to support a large family on a single wage is well prepared by training in economy, self-denial and energy to do well on the farm where all the boys and girls from two years up become helpers and even the wind and rain and sun conspire to help coax a living out of mother earth."

The observing traveler through the South of recent years cannot fail to notice the want of correspondence or proportion between the towns and cities and the country districts in the matter of up-to-date development. The latter lag far in the rear of the former and the unnatural disparity does not speak well for the stable and perma-

nent prosperity of this section as a whole. The truth is that the stupendous Southern industrial boom during the past twenty years has been accomplished largely at the expense of our agricultural interests and our rural population. Public works and industrial plants of all kinds have proved a heavy and continuous drain upon the latter; the prospect of good wages, better living and enlarged facilities generally in the towns was an irresistible temptation to an army of boys and young men on the farms; in numberless instances their parents and the whole family followed them and the result was that the towns were quickly distended with population and the farms suffered corresponding loss. This was all well enough while the boom lasted and times were good, but the boom has "busted" and times are no longer good, at least not to brag about. And with the ebbing of the tide we find in nearly every Southern community of size a considerable surplus population originally drawn from the country, practically stranded, with no demand for its labor, hanging on as best it can, eking out a scant subsistence with no prospect of betterment for the future. If this surplus would go back to the farms it would bring large relief to the situation. We have had our industrial boom in the South and it has increased the sum of our wealth enormously, but the development has not been even nor general. What we need now is an agricultural revival, a widespread movement back to the farms to restore the economic equipoise; for, as the soil is the original source of all wealth, so the farmer, even though the price of his crops just now may yield him scant profit, can at least be independent if he farms intelligently, and that is more than he can be while dependent on the uncertain tenure of a "job" in town.

The latest measure suggested to circumvent that common enemy of law-abiding people, the modern improved and revised pistol-toter, comes from Congressman Lewis, of Tennessee, who proposes to introduce a bill in congress making it a felony to carry a pistol in the District of Columbia. If this bill should pass it is expected that it will inspire the various State legislatures to take similar action in dealing with this great evil, but even in that event the ever-present problem of the enforcement of the law would still confront us, and with laxness in that respect we would probably discover that pistol-toting as a felony has no more terrors for the law-breaker of that kind than pistol-toting as a misdemeanor. The present law on the subject would doubtless be sufficient to break up the evil practice if it were rigorously and impartially enforced and imprisonment as well as heavy fine made the sure penalty in every instance. But the decent, law-abiding people of this country are so harried and bedeviled by the pistol-toters and their foul, murderous work that they would consent to the most extreme measures to get rid of the breed, and if making the offence a felony will accomplish the end or even contribute appreciably to it, they would doubtless approve such a law. On this subject the Pensacola Journal says:

"The Journal most earnestly hopes that the Florida legislature will take this matter up in April. Pistol-carrying should be made a crime with a severe penalty attaching. When this shall have been done it is safe to say that the heartrending tragedies which have so often disgraced the State will be a thing of the past."

William J. Bryan is booked for a speech at the Tampa fair on February 4 and it is given out that he will discuss the future of the democratic party in an impersonal way, taking the lessons and results of the last campaign as the basis for his remarks. A big theme and a big man to handle it! But we hope Mr. Bryan will take advantage of the opportunity to go into one branch of the subject of which he was rather shy during the late unpleasantness. We refer to the tariff. When he talks in Tampa he will be a State where citrus fruits and Sea Island cotton are among the chief money crops. Egyptian cotton of practically the same variety is coming into this country duty free, also foreign grown oranges and other fruits. The result is disastrous to our home producers, but as democrats they are confronted by the good old democratic doctrine of tariff for revenue only, hence they are between the devil and the deep sea, with their private interests on one side and their party loyalty on the other. They sorely need some good advice in such a strait, and Mr. Bryan, who is still the party Moses (although with indifferent success in that role heretofore),

SAVINGS
ACCOUNTTHE FIRST
NATIONAL BANK
OF LIVE OAK

Will pay 4 per cent. on all sums left in its
Savings Account. Interest period begins
January 1st to 10th for next quarter.

Never before has the Bank been in
better position to accommodate its custo-
mers, and you are invited to become one
of them.

CARY A. HARDEE, President

S. B. CONNER, Cashier

W. J. HILLMAN, {
THOS. DOWLING, } Vice-Presidents

will have a timely opportunity at Tampa to clarify the situation and tell a poor democrat what to do in such a dilemma. Congressman Clark, who is a good democrat, wants protection, and all over the South where there are interests to suffer from foreign competition the genuine republican protective spirit is erupting at an alarming rate. Let the clarion voice of W. J. B. be lifted at Tampa on this paramount issue.

Discourage the local companies of Jacksonville and be prepared to see them lose heart, to see the city some day handed over to a mad mob.—Times-Union.

Very true, indeed! It is short-sighted policy on the part of any community to refuse ample and cheerful support to its local military organization. The old notion of "tin soldiers" is only held now by shallow and unthinking people; the other kind understand that our State troops are soldiers in the best sense of the word who are called upon in grave emergencies to discharge duties of the highest usefulness to the community, and that in these days of mob violence and widespread contempt for law, town or city fortunate enough to possess one or more well-disciplined military companies has an asset of great value which it cannot afford to neglect.

Swear off from all your bad habits and get right with God and man today; and do it sincerely, without mental reservation, for this may be your last New Year's day on this narrow isthmus called Life between the two eternities. Even though you break the resolution it is better to have made it, for it shows that you yet have a conscience and moral stamina and recognize the call of duty. So long as that is true you are still worth saving and the star of hope continues to shine on the horizon of your future. It is the man who is reckless of all higher things; who wallows in sensuality; who knows no moral restraint; gives full rein to the evil within him and lives and dies like the animals around him, who makes no good resolutions to guide his conduct and lift him to a higher level of life.

The Democrat has received the latest quarterly bulletin of the Marion, Ala., Institute, which contains the address recently delivered before the students of that institution by Judge Hocker of the supreme court of Florida, whose theme was the Bible and the proper way to study it. In this age of widespread religious doubt and negation it is refreshing to mind and soul to read these strong, clear, simple sentences of one of the most highly-trained and luminous intellects in Florida uttered in support of the old faith of our fathers, and to realize that that faith is still the guiding star of undiminished brightness for such great men as the author of the address, while lesser minds are groping bewildered in the thick mists of skepticism or plunged in the deeper night of scientific materialism.

No barbarism of the Dark Ages when man was little better than a blood-clotted savage surpassed in cruel cowardice the vile, dastard work of the night-riders of Tennessee and Kentucky in the good year 1898 in civilized America. They are the shame and disgrace of the nation and nothing short of the corrective influence of the hangman will ever reform them. They sent a Jeffreys on the night-ride circuits in Tennessee and Kentucky, for even his ruthless methods could be better borne with less harm to the social state than the bloody despotism of the bandied scoundrels who murder and whip and burn and war on women and children as well as men in these two States.

Here is a genial little Christmas resolution from Editor Holly, of the Sanford Herald, which has a soft musical ring about it we seem to have heard in the long ago when life was in its spring and about once a year along about the first of January ever since. But, though fractured times uncountable, it has an infinite capacity for being successfully repaired and made as good as new, as we personally know, and it is a noble resolve which we should all make even more frequently than we do. Says Editor Holly:

"The editor of this primitive sheet having turned over a new leaf and pasted it down, will now proceed to fill it full of noble deeds and other interesting memoranda."

TEA

COFFEE

S. P. Mays
Fancy Groceries

DATES

RAISINS

FRUITS

NUTS

BUCKWHEAT